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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**JUSTINE FEDAK OF BMO FINANCIAL GROUP HONORED BY
NATIONAL MS SOCIETY AS 2013 WOMAN ON THE MOVE**

Sixth annual luncheon raises important funds for statewide MS research and programs

CHICAGO – Aug. 19, 2013 – The National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Greater Illinois Chapter today honored Justine Fedak, Senior Vice President and Head of Brand, Advertising and Sponsorships for BMO Financial Group, North America, at its sixth annual Women on the Move luncheon, which took place at the Ritz-Carlton (160 E. Pearson) in downtown Chicago.

Women on the Move, presented by BMO Harris Bank and Walgreens, is a premiere event where Chicago area community and business leaders come together to celebrate excellence, achievement and generosity, and to raise funds and awareness to help create a world free of multiple sclerosis. WGN-TV reporter and anchor Tom Negovan served as Master of Ceremonies.

Diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 2001, Fedak has been an advocate for healthy living through her involvement in many charitable forums throughout the Chicago area. Through *Women on the Move*, she is looking to educate others about the disease and bring needed awareness across the region.

“It’s a huge privilege to be this year’s honoree because I am passionate about raising awareness for people living with MS so they understand that they can live very happy and full lives, and to provide a face to something that a lot of people are still living with silently,” said Fedak, who lives in Chicago and is a native of Toronto. “If I had one wish for anyone newly diagnosed is that I could wrap my arms around them and tell them all the wonderful things that MS has brought me in my life.”

WOMEN ON THE MOVE 2013, Add One

In her role at BMO Financial Group, where she has worked since 1992, Fedak is responsible for brand positioning, advertising, promotional activities for the personal, commercial and wealth management businesses for the bank’s North American operation. Fedak also serves as an executive director of *The Noah’s Arc Foundation*, Chicago Bull Joakim Noah’s charitable organization. She is a member of the Board of Directors of the Greater North Michigan Ave. Association and Gilda’s Club Chicago; is a regular contributor to the Chicago Sun-Times SPLASH column; and in 2012 was selected to chair the Municipal Marketing Advisory Council for the City of Chicago.

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At *Women on the Move*, Fedak was presented by Alan McNally, former Chairman of Walgreens Co. and former CEO and Chairman of the Board of Harris Bank and Harris Financial Corporation. Other luncheon speakers included Cécilia Rodhe, President of the Noah's Arc Foundation, and John Blazek, President, National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Greater Illinois Chapter.

"Through her professional, philanthropic and volunteer involvement across the community, Justine is one of Chicago's true civic leaders," said Blazek. "She is an inspiration to us all and we are grateful for her ongoing dedication to the Society's cause and mission."

Multiple sclerosis, an unpredictable, often disabling disease of the central nervous system, interrupts the flow of information within the brain, and between the brain and body. The disease affects more than 20,000 individuals in Illinois and 2.1 million worldwide. The Greater Illinois Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society mobilizes people and resources to drive research for a cure and to address the challenges of everyone affected by MS. Envisioning a world free of MS, the Chapter moves toward that end by driving change through advocacy, facilitating education, collaborating with others and by providing helpful programs and services. For more information, visit MSillinois.org.

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